## JANUARY 2, 1808.

Read the first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole House, on Wednesday next.

## A Bill,

To amend the several acts, more effectually to provide for the national defence, by the militia of the United States.



- 1 Sec. 1. BE it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of
- 2 the United States of America, in congress assembled, That all
- 3 the militia of the United States, liable to do duty, over twenty-one
- 4 and under

- years of age, shall be deemed and
- 5 held in requisition, and called the junior class of militia. And the
- 6 president of the United States shall be, and he hereby is authorized,
- 7 on the appearance of national danger, to order out the same or
- 8 any part thereof, to any part of the United States or their territories,
- 9 for not more than one whole year at any one time. And whensoever
- 10 a part of the said junior class shall, by the president of the United
- 11 States, be called into actual service, such call shall commence with
- 12 those that are lowest in number, as to age, first, and so in rotation:

the same shall not be compelled to do duty a second time until the whole of the said junior class shall have served one tour; and when called into the actual service of the United States, they shall be armthe ed and equipped by the United States. For this purpose two hundred thousand stand of arms complete, shall be deposited in such places as the president of the United States shall direct, and whensoever the whole, or any part of the said junior class of militia, shall be called into actual service by the United States, and shall be armed and equipped by the same, it shall be lawful, and they, and each of them, are hereby permitted to retain the said arms and accountements, as their own property, any law to the contrary notwith-

- SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That all the militia of the United States, liable to do duty over eighteen and under twenty one years of age, shall be called the minor class of the militia, and shall not be compelled to do duty out of the state in which they severally reside, nor continued in actual service for more than three months at any one time. They shall be armed and equipped by the state to which they severally belong; but if a part only of the said minor class of militia shall be called into service, the call shall begin with those that are highest on the list as to age, and so in rotation. But shall not be compelled to do duty a second time, until the whole of the minor class shall have served one tour.
- 1 Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That the residue of the militia 2 liable to do duty, over and under forty-five years of age, 3 shall be called the senior class of the militia. The same shall be subject

4 to do duty in the state in which they severally reside, but may be 5 called into an adjoining state if, in the opinion of the president of 6 the United States, the safety of the nation shall require it; but they 7 shall not be compelled to serve for more than six months at any 8 one time, and if a detachment only be called into service, such call 9 shall commence with those, first, that are lowest on the list, as to 10 age, and so in rotation; and they and each of them shall provide 11 himself with a complete set of fire arms, equipped, and accoutred as

12 is by law directed, passed 8th May, 1792.

- Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That in the annual returns of 1 2 the militia, directed by law to be made by the adjutants general of 3 the respective states, to the commander in chief of the state, and to 4 the president of the United States, each class of militia shall be par-5 ticularly designated by noting in separate columns those that are 6 over 18, and under 19 years of age, and so in rotation; keeping 7 a separate column for each year; and it shall be the duty of each 8 and every captain or other officer, commanding a company of mi-9 litia, on the first Monday in in every year, to en-10 roll every militia man belonging to their company, according to their 11 ages, severally, which enrolment shall stand good for one year; 12 although such militia man may want only one month to arrive to 13 the age that may entitle him to join the next class in age.
- 2 into actual service may (if he chooses so to do) furnish one able 3 bodied man from the same class to which he may belong; but such

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That each militia man so called

- 4 substitute shall not be taken from either of the other classes.

- Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That no person shall be ex-
- 2 empted from militia duty merely for having served as an officer;
- 3 nor because he is a practising physician, surgeon, lawyer, or min-
- 4 ister of the gospel.
- 1 Sec. 7. And be it further enacted, That each and every officer
- 2 herein failing to make the returns directed by law in due time,
- 3 shall be cashiered, by the sentence of a court marshal, unless
- 4 good cause be shewn to the contrary; and he shall moreover be
- 5 assessed with all cost attending the same.